United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service

Keystone Ag Digest

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This publication may be found on the Internet at **www.nass.usda.gov/pa** and click on "Pennsylvania Publications."

Note to Survey Respondents: *Results of many surveys we conduct throughout the year are included in this report! Most survey results are **not** published individually.* ***Thank you*** *for taking the time to complete our surveys!*

MUSHROOM PRODUCTION

Pennsylvania growers led all states by producing 501.2 million pounds, or 64 percent of all U.S. Agaricus mushrooms sold during the 2009-2010 growing season. This is down 4 percent from last year's production. Pennsylvania growers received, on average, 87.6 cents per pound for all Agaricus mushroom sales down one half cent from the previous year. Pennsylvania's Agaricus crop was valued at $439 million, down 5 percent from the 2008-09 crop.

The Commonwealth mushroom producers sold 409 million pounds of Agaricus mushrooms for fresh market. Fresh market sales tallied $388.3 million. In addition, Pennsylvania growers supplied 86 percent or 92 million pounds of Agaricus mushrooms sold in the U.S. for processing. Processing sales in Pennsylvania totaled $50.7 million for the 2009-2010 season. Prices and value for mushroom sales are based on the average price that the producer receives at the point of first sale.

The 62 growers of Agaricus mushrooms in Chester County, Pennsylvania produced 351 million pounds, of Agaricus mushrooms, down 3 percent from the 2008-2009 growing season. This production was valued at $308 million, down 1 percent from the 2008-2009 growing season. The growing area in Chester County was 11.5 million square feet, down 2 percent from the 2008-2009 growing season. Total fillings were 53.5 million square feet, down 4 percent from the 2008-2009 growing season.

Nationally, Agaricus mushroom volume of sales totaled 778 million pounds, down 3 percent from the 2008-2009 season. Pennsylvania accounted for 64 percent of the total volume of sales and second-ranked California contributed 14 percent. The value of the Agaricus crop was estimated at $886 million dollars, down 3 percent from the 2008-2009 season. Brown mushrooms, including Portabello and Crimini varieties, accounted for 120 million pounds, up 8 percent from last season. Brown mushrooms accounted for 15 percent of the total Agaricus volume sold. The brown mushroom crop value of sales for the 2009-2010 season is $168 million dollars, 19 percent of the total Agaricus value.

Value of sales for commercially grown specialty mushrooms in 2009-2010 is $39.1 million, down 19 percent from the 2008-2009 season. A specialty grower is defined as having at least 200 natural wood logs in production or some commercial indoor growing area, and $200 dollars or more in sales. The average price per pound received by growers, at $2.56, is down 48 cents from the previous season.

Growers produced 30.0 million pounds of mushrooms that were certified organic during the 2009-2010 growing season, 28 percent below 2008-2009 of 42.0 million. Out of the 30.0 million pounds, 17.0 million pounds, or 57 percent of the total were sold as certified organic mushrooms, while the rest were sold without the certified organic label. This compares with 12.4 million pounds, or 30 percent sold as certified organic during the 2008-2009 crop year. Agaricus mushrooms accounted for 74 percent of the mushrooms sold as certified organic, while all specialty mushrooms made up the remainder. The total certified organic sales of all mushrooms represent 2 percent of the 2009-2010 total mushroom sales. The number of certified organic mushroom growers totaled 51, up seven growers from the previous season. These growers represent 16 percent of the 312 total mushroom producers.

SOURCE: ***Mushrooms***, 3:00 p.m., August 19, 2010, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA; available at www.nass.usda.gov.

PENNSYLVANIA & UNITED STATES: AGARICUS MUSHROOM SALES BY TYPE JULY 1, 2007 - JUNE 30, 2010

Year	Fresh Market			Processing			All Sales			Growers
	Volume of Sales	Price per Pound	Value of Sales	Volume of Sales	Price per Pound	Value of Sales	Volume of Sales	Price per Pound	Value of Sales	
	1,000 Lbs.	*Dollars*	*1,000 Dols*	*1,000 Lbs.*	*Dollars*	*1,000 Dols.*	*1,000 Lbs.*	*Dollars*	*1,000 Dols*	*Number*
2007-08										
Pennsylvania	404,971	0.987	399,706	91,750	0.581	53,307	496,721	0.912	453,013	69
United States	679,686	1.240	841,753	117,662	0.645	75,854	797,348	1.150	917,607	111
2008-09										
Pennsylvania	420,326	0.971	408,137	104,261	0.516	53,799	524,587	0.881	461,936	71
United States	680,328	1.240	841,021	123,568	0.564	69,637	803,896	1.130	910,658	117
2009-10										
Pennsylvania	408,770	0.950	388,332	92,458	0.548	50,667	501,228	0.876	438,999	70
United States	670,805	1.230	822,874	107,109	0.587	62,918	777,914	1.140	885,792	112

SOURCE: ***Mushrooms***, 3:00 p.m., August 19, 2010, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA; available at www.nass.usda.gov.

AUGUST FARM PRICES RECEIVED INDEX UP 3 POINTS

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in August, at 145 percent, based on 1990-1992=100, increased 3 points (2.1 percent) from July. The Crop Index is up 5 points (3.3 percent) and the Livestock Index increased 1 point (0.8 percent). Producers received higher prices for wheat, corn, milk, and cattle and lower prices for broilers, lettuce, onions, and cantaloups. In addition to prices, the overall index is also affected by the seasonal change based on a 3-year average mix of commodities producers sell. Increased monthly marketings of cattle, grapes, sweet corn, and potatoes offset decreased marketings of wheat, hay, strawberries, and milk.

The preliminary All Farm Products Index is up 19 points (15 percent) from August 2009. The Food Commodities Index, at 145, increased 3 points (2.1 percent) from last month and increased 21 points (17 percent) from August 2009.

ALL CROPS: The August index is 155, up 3.3 percent from July and 6.2 percent above August 2009. Index increases for food grains, feed grains & hay, fruits & nuts, and oilseeds more than offset the index decreases for commercial vegetables and cotton.

Food Grains: The August index, at 186, is 22 percent above the previous month and 10 percent above a year ago. The August all wheat price, at $5.56 per bushel, is up $1.06 from July and 71 cents above August 2009.

Feed Grains & Hay: The August index is 157, up 4.0 percent from last month and 6.1 percent above a year ago. The corn price, at $3.65 per bushel, is up 16 cents from last month and 32 cents above August 2009. The all hay price, at $111 per ton, is down $1.00 from July but up $7.00 from last August.

Oilseeds: The August index, at 179, is up 2.9 percent from July but 6.8 percent lower than August 2009. The soybean price, at $10.10 per bushel, increased 31 cents from July but is 70 cents below August 2009.

Fruits & Nuts: The August index, at 158, is up 3.9 percent from July and 12 percent higher than a year ago. Price increases for strawberries, lemons, grapes, and apples more than offset price decreases for pears, oranges, and grapefruit.

Commercial Vegetables: The August index, at 149, is down 7.5 percent from last month but 6.4 percent above August 2009. Price declines for lettuce, onions, broccoli, and cantaloups more than offset price increases during August for sweet corn and tomatoes.

LIVESTOCK & PRODUCTS: The August index, at 133, is 0.8 percent above last month and up 22 percent from August 2009. Compared with a year ago, prices are higher for milk, cattle, hogs, broilers, turkeys, calves, and eggs.

Meat Animals: The August index, at 128, is up 2.4 percent from last month and 23 percent higher than last year. The August hog price, at $61.30 per cwt, is up $2.80 from July and $24.00 higher than a year ago. The August beef cattle price of $93.20 per cwt is up $1.60 from last month and $12.80 higher than August 2009.

Dairy Products: The August index, at 127, is up 3.3 percent from a month ago and 37 percent higher than August last year. The August all milk price of $16.60 per cwt is up 60 cents from last month and up $4.50 from August 2009. The fluid grade milk price is up 60 cents and the manufacturing grade milk price is up $1.00 from the previous month.

Poultry & Eggs: The August index, at 149, is down 2.6 percent from July but 13 percent above a year ago. The August market egg price, at 62.4 cents per dozen, increased 9.6 cents from July and is 3.9 cents above August 2009. The August broiler price, at 48.0 cents per pound, is down 3.0 cents from July but 5.0 cents above a year ago. The August turkey price, at 66.3 cents per pound, is up 1.6 cents from the previous month and 15.2 cents higher than a year earlier.

SOURCE: ***Agricultural Prices***, 3:00 p.m., August 31, 2010, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA; available at www.nass.usda.gov.

PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS, SELECTED COMMODITIES, AUGUST 2010

Commodity	Unit	Pennsylvania			United States		
		Aug 2009	Jul 2010	Aug 2010 [1]	Aug 2009	Jul 2010	Aug 2010 [1]
		Dollars					
Corn	Bu.	3.94	4.03	4.23	3.33	3.49	3.65
Wheat, Winter [2]..............	Bu.	-	-	-	4.67	4.47	5.72
Oats................................	Bu.	2.30	2.19	2.29	1.86	2.10	2.07
Barley [2]..........................	Bu.	-	-	-	5.17	3.75	3.56
Soybeans [2]....................	Bu.	-	-	-	10.80	9.79	10.10
Hay, Dry All	Ton	133.00	127.00	111.00	104.00	112.00	111.00
Dry Alfalfa	Ton	153.00	149.00	140.00	109.00	117.00	116.00
Dry Other..................	Ton	125.00	120.00	105.00	94.40	97.30	96.10
Apples, Fresh Use	Lb.	-	-	-	0.238	0.304	0.317
Cows, Slaughter	Cwt.	46.00	54.60	54.40	45.50	59.00	58.20
Steers & Heifers	Cwt.	80.00	89.90	88.50	85.10	95.90	97.70
Calves	Cwt.	107.00	101.00	100.00	108.00	120.00	120.00
Barrows & Gilts...............	Cwt.	34.50	55.60	57.00	37.60	58.70	61.50
Sows	Cwt.	32.60	56.50	60.50	30.00	53.70	58.10
Sheep............................	Cwt.	48.50	60.00	-	31.30	43.80	-
Lambs	Cwt.	118.00	126.00	-	97.10	123.00	-
Eggs [3]............................	Doz.	0.560	[6]	[6]	0.585	0.528	0.624
Milk, Fluid Grade	Cwt.	13.30	18.10	-	12.10	16.00	16.60
Manufactured Grade [4]...	Cwt.	-	-	-	11.80	14.10	15.10
All	Cwt.	13.30	18.10	18.70	12.10	16.00	16.60
Milk Cows [5]	Head	-	1,400.00	-	-	1,320.00	-

[1] Preliminary. [2] Pennsylvania price not published on monthly basis, average price is published annually. [3] Market (table) eggs, including eggs sold retail by the producer. [4] PA is no longer published due to insufficient manufacturing grade milk volume. [5] Quarterly (Jan., Apr., Jul, Oct.). [6] PA is no longer publishing monthly Market Egg prices.
SOURCE: ***Agricultural Prices***, 3:00 p.m., August 31, 2010, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA; available at www.nass.usda.gov.

HIRED WORKERS DOWN 1 PERCENT, WAGE RATES UP 2 PERCENT FROM A YEAR AGO

There were 1,244,000 hired workers on the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of July 11-17, 2010, down 1 percent from a year ago. Of these hired workers, 894,000 were hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees on farms and ranches made up the remaining 350,000 workers.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of $10.82 per hour during the July 2010 reference week, up 16 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of $10.12 per hour, up 8 cents from last July, while livestock workers earned $10.19 per hour compared with $10.05 a year earlier. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at $10.14 per hour, was up 10 cents from last year. The number of hours worked averaged 41.0 for hired workers during the survey week, up 3 percent from a year ago.

The largest decreases in the number of hired workers from last year occurred in the Lake (Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin), Southern Plains (Oklahoma and Texas), Corn Belt I (Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio), Delta (Arkansas, Louisiana, and Mississippi), and Appalachian II (Kentucky, Tennessee, and West Virginia) regions. In the Lake, Corn Belt I, and Appalachian II regions, weather conditions were wetter than last year's reference week. Fieldwork progress was slowed for nearly two days in some areas, lowering the demand for hired workers. Heavy rains and flooding occurred in parts of Texas, halting most field activities and reducing the need for hired workers in the Southern Plains region. In the Delta region, declining demand from the nursery and greenhouse industries kept hired worker numbers below last year.

The largest increases in the number of hired workers from last year occurred in California, and in the Northern Plains (Kansas, Nebraska, North Dakota, and South Dakota), Corn Belt II (Iowa and Missouri), Appalachian I (North Carolina and Virginia), and Mountain II (Colorado, Nevada, and Utah) regions. Above normal winter precipitation in California allowed more acreage to be cropped due to increased availability of irrigation water. Therefore, more hired workers were needed. In the Northern Plains and Mountain II regions, weather conditions were drier than last year's reference week. This allowed field activities to progress rapidly and increased the need for hired workers. Strong demand from the cattle and poultry industries in the Corn Belt II region pushed hired worker numbers above last year. In the Appalachian II region, increased requirements from the tobacco, vegetable, and fruit industries kept hired worker levels above the previous year.

Hired worker wage rates were generally above a year ago in most regions. The largest increases occurred in the Northern Plains, Northeast II (Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania), Corn Belt I, and Southeast (Alabama, Georgia, and South Carolina) regions. In the Northern Plains, Corn Belt I and Southeast regions, the higher wages were due to a lower proportion of part time workers. The higher wages in the Northeast II region were due to a larger percentage of higher paid equine workers.

SOURCE: ***Farm Labor***, 3:00 p.m. August 19, 2010, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA; available at www.nass.usda.gov.

FARM EMPLOYMENT, HOURS WORKED & WAGE RATES, WEEK OF JULY 11-17, 2010 [1]

Item	NE II [2]	U. S. [3]
	Thousands	
Farm Employment		
Hired Workers	37	894
Expected to be Employed		
150 Days or More	25	634
149 Days or Less	12	260
	Hours	
Hours Worked		
Hired	39.2	41.0
	Dollars per Hour	
Wage Rates for		
All Hired Workers	11.10	10.82
Type of Worker		
Field & Livestock Combined	10.26	10.14
Field	10.55	10.12
Livestock	9.09	10.19

[1] Excludes Agricultural Service Workers. [2] NORTHEAST II includes Pennsylvania, Maryland, New Jersey and Delaware. [3] Excludes AK.

SOURCE: ***Farm Labor***, 3:00 p.m. August 19, 2010, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA; available at www.nass.usda.gov.

COLD STORAGE HIGHLIGHTS JULY 31, 2010

Apples in cold storage reported by cold storage warehouses for Pennsylvania totaled 554,500 bushels on July 31, 2010, compared to 501,500 bushels on July 31, 2009. Individual varieties were not disclosed to protect the confidentiality of storage operators and because of the low volume of apples in stocks.

Total apple stocks in Pennsylvania totaled 23,289,000 pounds on July 31, 2010, compared to 21,063,000 pounds on July 31, 2009.

Frozen food stocks in refrigerated warehouses on July 31, 2010 were greater than year earlier levels for eggs and cheese.

Butter stocks were up 1 percent from last month but down 24 percent from a year ago.

Total red meat supplies in freezers were down 1 percent from the previous month and down 20 percent from last year. Frozen pork supplies were down 5 percent from the previous month and down 28 percent from last year. Stocks of pork bellies were down 38 percent from last month and down 64 percent from last year.

Total frozen poultry supplies on July 31, 2010 were up slightly from the previous month but down 11 percent from a year ago. Total stocks of chicken were up 1 percent from the previous month but down 1 percent from last year. Total pounds of turkey in freezers were down 1 percent from last month and down 22 percent from July 31, 2009.

SOURCE: ***Cold Storage,*** 3:00 p.m., August 20, 2010, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA; available at www.nass.usda.gov.

STOCKS IN COLD STORAGE, UNITED STATES

Commodity	Jul 31, 2009	Jun 30, 2010	Jul 31, 2010
		(000) Lbs.	
Butter	262,782	197,601	199,634
Cheese, Total Natural	1,000,171	1,025,274	1,048,767
Eggs, Frozen	22,578	25,010	24,846
Poultry, Total Frozen	1,328,751	1,174,605	1,179,859
Chicken	681,409	663,288	672,786
Turkeys	641,060	507,174	502,014
Fruits, Frozen	1,154,271	921,054	1,113,204
Fruit Juices, Frozen	1,707,404	1,661,401	1,530,782
Vegetables, Total Frozen	1,832,188	1,664,876	1,890,072
Potatoes, Total Frozen	1,187,530	1,141,946	1,045,832
Meats, Total Frozen	1,014,695	816,100	808,151
Beef, Total Frozen	444,807	374,223	388,327
Pork, Total Frozen	539,700	412,983	391,252

SOURCE: ***Cold Storage***, 3:00 p.m., August 20, 2010, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA; available at www.nass.usda.gov.

MONTHLY POULTRY SUMMARY

Item	Unit	Pennsylvania			United States		
		Jul 2009	Jun 2010	Jul 2010	Jul 2009	Jun 2010	Jul 2010
Layers	Thous.	22,596	23,803	24,023	332,740	338,461	338,650
Eggs Per 100 Layers	Number	2,461	2,432	2,485	2,281	2,203	2,270
Eggs Produced	Million	556	579	597	7,590	7,455	7,688
Chick Hatch-Broiler Type	Thous.	13,709	13,532	13,742	784,118	786,707	800,860
Chick Hatch-Egg Type [1]	Thous.	-	-	-	36,213	42,623	38,053
Turkey Poults Placed	Thous.	-	-	-	25,037	23,946	25,723

[1] April 2009 state level data for egg-type chicks hatched will no longer be published,.

SOURCES: ***Chickens and Eggs***, 3:00 p.m., August 23, 2010, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA; available at www.nass.usda.gov.
Turkey Hatchery, 3:00 p.m.,August 16, 2010, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA; available at www.nass.usda.gov.

EGG PRODUCTION

Egg production in Pennsylvania during July 2010 totaled 597 million eggs, up seven percent from the 556 million eggs produced in July2009. The total number of layers averaged 24 million during July, a six percent increase from last year. Production per 100 layers was 2,485 eggs during the month, an increase of 24 eggs overall from July 2009. Broiler-type chicks hatched in Pennsylvania totaled 13.7 million during July 2010, about the same as the same month last year.

U.S. egg production totaled 7.69 billion during July 2010, up one percent from last year. Production included 6.58 billion table eggs, and 1.11 billion hatching eggs, of which 1.04 billion were broiler-type and 72 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during July 2010 averaged 339 million, up two percent from last year. July egg production per 100 layers was 2,270 eggs, unchanged from July 2009.

Egg-type chicks hatched during July 2010 totaled 38.1 million, up five percent from July 2009. Broiler-type chicks hatched during July 2010 totaled 801 million, up two percent from July 2009. There were 25.7 million net poults placed during July 2010 in the United States, were up three percent from the number placed during the same month a year earlier.

SOURCE: ***Chickens and Eggs***, 3:00 p.m., August 23, 2010, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA; available at www.nass.usda.gov.

RED MEAT PRODUCTION

Commercial red meat production, dressed weight basis, in **Pennsylvania** during July 2010 totaled 99.4 million pounds, down 4 percent from July 2009. Beef production, at 96.4 million pounds live weight, was up 3 percent from July 2009. Total head slaughtered was 80,100, up 4 percent. Live weight averaged 1,215 pounds, 25 pounds per head less than last year. Veal production was 4.1 million pounds live weight, down 12 percent from last year. Calf slaughter of 9,500 head was down 12 percent from last year. Average live weight decreased 1 pound per head to 428 pounds. Pork production was 54.6 million pounds live weight, down 12 percent from last year. Total head slaughtered was 215,400, down 12 percent from July 2009. Average live weight decreased 1 pound per head from last year to 254 pounds. Lamb and mutton production during July 2010 was 285,000 pounds live weight, down 23 percent. The number slaughtered was 2,900, down 22 percent from last year. Average live weight decreased 1 pound per head from last year to 98 pounds.

SOURCE: ***Livestock Slaughter***, 8:30 a.m. August 20, 2010, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA; available at www.nass.usda.gov.

COMMERCIAL LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER, JUL 2010

Specie	Unit	Pennsylvania	United States
Red Meat Prod.....	Million pounds	99.4	3,956.4
Cattle	1,000 Head	80.1	2,900.2
	1,000 pounds live	96,445	3,680,068
Calves.................	1,000 Head	9.5	75.1
	1,000 pounds live	4,052	18,571
Hogs	1,000 Head	215.4	8,469.2
	1,000 pounds live	54,577	2,275,363
Sheep & Lambs ...	1,000 Head	2.9	197.4
	1,000 pounds live	285	25,751

SOURCE: ***Livestock Slaughter***, 8:30 a.m. August 20, 2010, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA; available at www.nass.usda.gov.

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